

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee investigation into allegations against Speaker GINGRICH makes the O.J. trial look like swift justice.

Since the beginning of this Congress, the Ethics Committee has been meeting to discuss the various charges against Mr. GINGRICH. The complexity of the charges coupled with the fact that they are leveled against the highest ranking Member of the House are two reasons why this inquiry has dragged on. They are also two reasons why we need an outside counsel to take over.

For several months, government watchdog groups like Common Cause and Public Citizen have been calling for the appointment of an outside counsel in this case. They believe, as I do, that the appointment of a fully independent, outside counsel is the only way to assure a fair, thorough, nonpartisan investigation of the Speaker. It is the only way to lift the ethical cloud that hangs over this House.

#### LOBBYING REFORM

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand today and agree with my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT], who just told us about the importance of ending the subsidies that the American taxpayers pay for groups to lobby.

It is a critical issue. We are talking about lobbying reform. Currently, we are talking about PAC reform. These are important issues that should be discussed, but we should not have a fear because a group says you are stifling my voice.

Let us make it clear in this debate. This is an important issue. These are government dollars, taxpayers' dollars, that are going into these advocacy groups.

In recent research, what was told us is that 70 percent of Americans want to see this changed. We have got to address this in the debate. This has to come before the Halls of Congress. We also have to make it clear that these groups should be advocates for their position. A lot of these groups I agree with. They would be free to advocate their position, but the taxpayers of this country should be free from paying for it.

#### UNCLE SAM IS NOT THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, everybody wants peace in Bosnia, but that is not the only issue here. The issue is whether American troops should be the peacekeepers.

Now every time there is a problem in the world these foreign leaders bow down and call America the superpower. Yes, truly we are a superpower. But we are not the only power, ladies and gentlemen. I say, if peacekeepers are needed in Bosnia, where is Great Britain? Where is Italy? Where is Spain, ladies and gentlemen? All of a sudden did they become third-world pushovers? The Constitution did not make Uncle Sam the policeman for the world, and Congress should not make Uncle Sam the neighborhood crime watch leader, either.

I say, before one American gets sent to Bosnia, there must be a consent, approval, and authorization of the Congress of the United States of America.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what did my constituents send me to Washington to do? They sent me here to downsize the bloated Federal bureaucracy, cut spending, and most importantly balance the budget. And why do they want the budget balanced? Because of the benefits it will bring them.

A balanced budget means lower interest rates on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans. A balanced budget results in a stronger economy, which means more jobs. A balanced budget means that Government spending is under control and taxes will be cut rather than increased.

Mr. Speaker, for too long Washington bureaucrats have come up with excuse after excuse for not reining in Government spending. But enough is enough. No more Washington gimmicks, and no more excuses. It is time to balance the budget. It is the right thing to do for America's future.

#### MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my Republican colleague followed me here and talked about the difference between the debt and the deficit.

Well, I know very well the difference between the debt and the deficit. I know we have almost a \$5 trillion debt. The deficit, though, in 1992 under a Republican President was \$290 billion. For that year, that deficit.

Last year it was only \$163 billion. That is what I call progress, and it was not done during the 1980's. In fact, during the 1980's, our debt exploded to that \$4.9 trillion or whatever it is.

But the truth is really out. We need to balance our budget, but we do not need to do it on the backs of education or Medicare, and that is wrong. That is what the American people are saying in all the polls.

Mr. Speaker, the comments of our Speaker and also the leader of the other body last Sunday in the Washington Post demonstrate the true sentiments of the Republicans on the Medicare plan. Cut health care for seniors as much as necessary to pay for that tax cut, not balancing the budget but for a tax cut.

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It is disgusting to see a PR campaign used to provide for a tax cut. Mr. Speaker, I hope the conference committee and the President will veto that plan.

#### WHY WE ARE HERE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, with all of the speculation about whether the President will sign or veto the Congress' plan to balance the budget in 7 years, we need to remember why we need to balance the budget. A child born today must pay \$187,000 during her lifetime just to pay for the interest on the almost \$5 trillion national debt.

That is before paying for any government services—Social Security or Medicare for her parents and grandparents—or national defense for herself.

We have to balance the budget for our children's future. We have spent over \$5 trillion in Federal welfare programs since 1965 and Americans have concluded that the current welfare system perpetuates dependency and offers no hope for a better future.

We have to reform welfare because it is what Franklin Delano Roosevelt described as "a subtle destroyer of the human spirit."

While American families sent 2 percent of their income in taxes to Washington in 1950—today they send almost one-quarter.

That is why we must provide tax relief to families.

Without reform, Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years with no legal authority to pay hospital bills for seniors.

These are the stakes.

Americans sent us to Washington to fix these problems.

I hope the President chooses to sign the only budget plan that will address these problems.

#### WHO PAYS FOR THE TAX CUT?

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, last week the Republicans voted to dramatically slash Medicare by \$270 billion, Medicaid by \$180 billion. They voted to raid the pension plans of